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The Touro Connection Number Two

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THE TOURO CONNECTION

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF THE LANDER COLLEGES

TOURO PLANS NEW COLLEGE FOR BERLIN

Touro will be the first American college in Berlin to offer an undergraduate program, beginning in Fall 2003. According to President Bernard Lander, the mission of Touro College Berlin will be twofold: to provide an American degree in business administration and to offer a traditional Jewish education.

The goal is to have 30 students in the first year of a three-year program, Dr. Lander said. Students from Germany, Eastern Europe and other countries would be eligible to apply.

At a news conference in February, the president signed a four-year contract with the State of Berlin. The signing took place in the school's future campus, a home that once belonged to Jewish owners.

There are some 100,000 Jews in Germany, two-thirds of them recent immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Community Jewish leaders, who are welcoming the school, see an urgent need to reach out to these Jews and to build a new generation of teachers and rabbis.

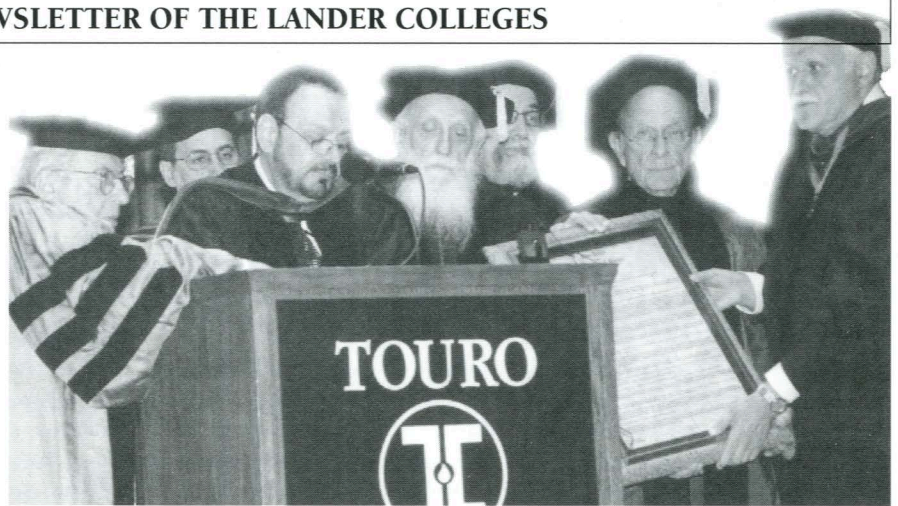
The school hopes to receive help from the Foundation for Remembrance and the Future, set up by the German government and industry to pay reparations to Nazi-era slave and forced laborers. A major aim of the foundation is to help rebuild Jewish life in Europe.

Along with the Berlin College, Dr. Lander said he hopes to establish similar schools in France and Hungary.

JTA/Toby Axelrod



President Bernard Lander joins Berlin Senate Advisor on Education and Youth, Karla Range-Schmedes, in signing a four-year contract for the new home of Touro College Berlin.



CONFERRING DOCTOR OF LAWS HONORIS CAUSA at 28th Commencement:
From left, President Bernard Lander, Rabbi Dr. Menchem Genack,
Dean Jerome L. Miller, Rabbi Dr. Abraham Twerski, Dean Stanley Boylan,
Dean Howard Glickstein and Dean Robert Goldschmidt.

WORLD FAMOUS RABBI-PHYSICIAN TELLS GRADUATES

'As Future Leaders of The Jewish People, You Must Implement Tikun Olam'

President Lander awarded more than 570 degrees at the 28th commencement of Touro College at Lincoln Center in June.

The Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* was conferred upon the internationally acclaimed Rabbi-Physician Abraham J. Twersky for his exemplary contributions to the advancement of Torah, to the synergy between medicine and religion, to his cutting-edge, humane models in addiction rehabilitation, and to *Tikun Olam*, the rectification of the world.

In his challenging address to the graduates, Dr. Twersky said:

"Torah study is not something that is to be isolated only to the four walls of the *Bais Hamedrash* but it is to be implemented in every facet of our lives: at home, at work and in socializing. There is so much in the world that has to be set straight; that has to be rectified. In this week's portion of the Torah, there was the first essential

mission where *Klal Yisroel* were told to send emissaries to explore the land of Canaan to replace paganism with spirituality.

"Spirituality is indeed the pursuit of happiness. Paganism is the pursuit of pleasure in a world that has lost all its bearings and no longer knows where it is headed.

"Because of the enormous anxiety that has taken over the world as a result of the momentous events of this year, new leadership is necessary, to manifest a true pursuit of happiness rather than simply pleasure. There is the *Tikun Olam* which you as the future leaders of the Jewish people will have to implement."

"You are the true people, the *Anashim* who are being sent *veyatouru es Eretz Canaan* to bring the principles of Torah to

Continued on page 4

**More Than 570
Receive Degrees**

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אכלי ציון וירושלים

REMEMBERING DR. DAVID LAPIN ע"ה

By Dr. Stanley Boylan, Dean of Faculties

When Dr. David Lapin, a"h, passed away July 1, 2002, the rabbis and his family eulogized him as a unique individual who had enriched the Jewish community. And as was appropriate, they spoke of David as a family man, as a dedicated Jew. At that time, particularly since President Lander and many others from Touro could not attend the funeral, we recognized the need for an *azkora* – a memorial tribute to Dr. Lapin, to be held at the College.

There had never been such a memorial at Touro for a departed faculty member. We felt that it was justified in this instance, however, that an aspect of the unique and wonderful attributes of David Lapin had not yet been addressed, and that a special memorial was necessary because: Touro College was so much a part of his life

and he was such a vital part of Touro's academic life; he made a profound difference in the lives of countless students; there was perhaps something we could say that would ease the pain of his wife and family; and there was much all of us could learn from his dedication and love for each individual student, because he was so very special to all of us.

Hundreds of faculty, alumni and community members gathered at the Flatbush campus, October 13, to pay tribute to his memory.

Excerpts from the major eulogies follow.

PRESIDENT BERNARD LANDER: "So many of our graduates have been inspired by Dr. Lapin to enter medicine as a profession. In that sense, he is responsible for the academic achievements and social services performed by our alumni, who are now prominent physicians and dentists. They epitomize Dr. Lapin's sense of compassion and commitment to alleviate human pain and suffering."

DR. NATHAN LANDER, Chairman and Professor of Sociology: "Dr. Lapin personified gracious humbleness. The Torah tells us that Moses was the most humble man on earth. Dr. Lapin demonstrated the traits of our great leaders. He never imposed himself on his students, but impressed himself upon them and left his mark on their minds. The students respected Dr. Lapin's intellectual acumen and appreciated his caring and interest in each. We have lost a valued colleague and mensch."

DR. IRA PARNES, Pediatric Cardiologist, '75 – "I met Dr. Lapin 31 years ago as a student in his biology class, yet strong memories remain.

"He was a committed, giving teacher who held nothing back. He was interested in more than teaching, he cared. He was interested in our careers and aspirations. He was *eidel*. He tremendously influenced an entire generation of scientists and physicians."



Dr. David Lapin ע"ה

DR. FARHAD YEROSHALMI, '94, Pediatric Dentist – "It is difficult for me to comprehend that one of the greatest people that I have had the honor to know is no longer with us.

"As students we all have had the occasion to meet hundreds of teachers and mentors. Most of them we can't even remember by name. Some of us, though, are lucky enough to meet someone who inspires us, someone who ignites our soul and forges us into being who we are today. That per-

son in my life and twenty-two years of schooling was Dr. David Lapin.

"Eleven years have passed since I first met Dr. David Lapin. It was 1991; I had recently escaped from Iran and was working at night to support myself. I wanted to be a part of the American dream and further my education, so I started at Touro College as a freshman. During my first year, I enrolled in one of Dr. Lapin's classes. My love for biology grew that semester, so I started working for Dr. Lapin as his assistant.

"In my junior year through his encouragement, I applied to graduate school. I remember asking him about the personal essay I had to write as part of the application. His advice was 'Farhad, people in the admissions offices read hundreds of essays every year, so write a simple essay; write from the heart.' So I did. His pearl of wisdom earned me an acceptance letter into an Ivy League university in my junior year.

"I will never forget the sparkle in his eyes and the joy and happiness in his face when I showed him my acceptance letter. He grabbed my hand, taking me from office to office to let everyone know this great news.

"Throughout the years we kept in touch as he led me step by step through graduate school and milestones in my life. I saw Dr. Lapin last Thanksgiving, and though physically changed due to his illness, his love for his students and this institution was uncompromising, which has never failed



THE LAPIN FAMILY, from left: daughter-in-law Nurit Lapin, Benji Lapin, Ruven Lapin, Seth Lapin, Gylet Lapin, Alumnus Dr. Farhad Yeroshalmi, Mrs. Margaret Lapin, Esta Lapin Meisner, son-in-law Maier Meisner.

to amaze me.

"It is written in *Sefer Devarim*: 'A teacher is termed father.' Growing up, I was always taught that 'school is your second home and your teachers are your second parents.' Today, I truly understand the meaning of that phrase as I feel I have lost a father. He truly cared for me as a son, and I truly loved him as a father. I was just another student when I met Dr. Lapin, but now, because of him, I have a doctoral degree.

"It is written in *Sefer Tehillim*, Psalm 119: 'I became wiser from every teacher.' I am grateful to all my professors at Touro College for the education they offered me, but I am indebted for life to Dr. Lapin for what he did for me as a person in altering my professional and personal life."

DR. SHULAMIT KON, '82, Pediatrician – "When I became a Touro student I had the privilege of enrolling in Dr. Lapin's cours-

es. He was a supreme biologist and a gifted teacher.

"Some years ago, Dr. Lapin suffered from an illness that made ambulating very difficult. One's natural reaction would be anger and despair, but not Dr. Lapin. He pushed himself to continue to fulfill his professorial commitments and his family obligations. He carried all with dignity, grace – and without complaining. He was destined to suffer even harsher *yisurim*; yet, he faced his medical problems with super-human courage. He clung to life and would not leave this world until he accomplished his most important mission – to accompany his last single child to the chupah, which he did with tremendous joy.

"This loving father, family man, scientist par excellence, and gifted teacher was the finest, most sincere person I have ever encountered."

DR. SETH LAPIN, '90 Assistant Director of Gastroenterology, Maimonides Medical Center –



ALUMNI EULOGISTS, from left: Dr. Ira Parness, Dr. Shulamit Kon, & Dr. Farhad Yeroshalmi.

"My father enjoyed teaching and guiding students in their pursuit of health related careers. His work was truly a labor of love and he gave of himself with a full heart.

"Our home was always open to the students. Many of my father's students became our friends. We were often involved on a personal level with many of them. My father was often a role model and substitute parent for those from foreign countries who were here alone. Parents, who often called him from out of town with all kinds of problems and concerns, were always more comfortable and less anxious after speaking with him.

"As Rabbi Aschkenazi said at the funeral, Daddy took a chance with his *parnassa* when Touro started. He left a tenured position at Fairleigh Dickinson University. He truly believed that he could build Touro's science department and help mold Jewish students into Shomer Shabbos health professionals. He never regretted that decision.

"Life is ironic and we have no control over the events in our lives. He and his team of hematology researchers at NYU and Downstate hoped to conquer the dreaded illness that he died from. He did work on a drug called erythropoietin that is used today in people with blood disorders and for people who are undergoing chemotherapy. He also took this drug.

"My father lived a relatively short time, but he used that time well by helping others and using his talents productively."

THE DAVID LAPIN MEMORIAL

As a permanent memorial, Touro College is establishing The Professor David Lapin Memorial Laboratory, at the Flatbush Campus of the Lander College of Arts and Sciences, where Dr. Lapin taught and mentored for many years.

The Laboratory will be equipped with cutting-edge scientific equipment and instrumentation to provide students and faculty with resources to conduct advanced research and experimentation.

Benefactors are invited to call the Office of Resource Development at 212-463-0400, ext. 660.

AlumNotes

מזל טוב
BAR MITZVAH: Dovid

Lander son of Rabbi Doniel Lander '77 and Phyllis Lander. ENGAGEMENTS: Sruli Weinstock '00 to Daniella Chana; Hadasah Lehman '00 to Dovid Feinberg MARRIAGES: Shira Waxman daughter of Dr. Rafi Waxman '75 and Debbie to Joseph Shatzkes; Meir Hornung '02 to Rimona Krull; David Levin '99 to Dina Lawrence '01; Ahuva Miller '97 to Mark Katz;

Aviva Arfe '00 to Azriel Stern; Deborah Weissman '00 to Dovid Sherman; Yossi Metal '02 to Gitti Vais; Shabsi Fuchs '01 to Tova Fuhrer; Joshua Miska '01 to Aviva Broges. BIRTHS: A son to Channie Cohen-Eisenstein '01; Menachem Peretz to Ruchie Stern-Lefton '96 and Aaron; a son to Fagie Englander-Lobel '00 and Chaim; Esther Chaya to



ESTHER'S CORNER

Zhava Twersky-Nussenbaum '99 and Yossie and sister Tziporah; Rochel Leah to Stephanie Okun-Kirshner '01 and Mark; Miriam to Harayl Askotsky '00 and Aliza Roitman-Askotsky '01; Tehilla to Estee Sokol-Schwab '99, Daniel and sister Malka; a girl to Suri Cohen-Sanziger; Moshe Reuven to Sholom Dreyfuss '01 and Chaya; Penina to Chanoch Gold '01 and Aliza; a girl to Batzael Klein '02 and Nechama (Stern-Klein); Yael to Sheldon Schneider '00 and Ellie. GRADUATIONS: Dvorah Shmulewitz '97, PhD. in Microbiology from Rockefeller University; Aviva Arfe-Stern '00 MS in ESL from Queens College. HONORS: Zehava Murciano-Kraitenberg '80, a teacher at Masores Bais Yaakov, received the Gruss Lifetime Achievement Education Award. ENTREPRENEUR: Nathan (Nosson) Sklar '94 launched Comprehensive Center for Rehabilitation (CCR), a full service agency on the Lower East Side. REGARDS FROM: Harold Matheson '98 living in Palm Beach... David Schulman '00 from Winnipeg... Shoshana Meth '99. - Esther Ingber

THE TOURO CONNECTION

The Alumni Newsletter of the Lander Colleges

The purpose of AlumNotes on is to inform you of your fellow graduates personal and professional achievements, as well as family news, including marriages, births, simchas, and bereavements. We want to hear from you; let us know.

Office of Resource Development
ALAN A. MOND, Vice President

Office of Alumni Affairs
ESTHER INGBER, Director

Office of Communication & College Affairs
JEROME L. MILLER, Dean

The Dean's Perspective

On Accreditation and New Honors Program

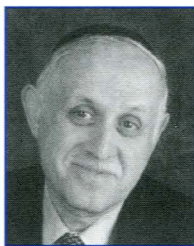
Middle States Accreditation Visit: The Middle States Commission on Higher Education will conduct a reaffirmation of accreditation visit to Touro College in New York in Spring 2004 and to campuses in California, Israel and Russia in Fall 2003.

The preparation of a required self-study report is a democratic process, involving 12 task forces, more than 160 members of the Touro community. As chair of the Self-Study Steering Committee, I have overall responsibility for directing this vital project and for the quality of the report.

Accreditation from the Middle States Association is critical for the College in that it validates the quality of the education students receive at Touro, and it enables our alumni to gain acceptance to prestigious graduate and professional schools.

The College values the contribution of its alumni, several of whom are serving on various task forces. For example, Dr. Chaim Mozes, '83 (Ph.D. in accounting, NYU), is on the Faculty Task Force; Dr. Devorah Shmulewitz, '97 (Ph.D. in biology, Rockefeller University), is on the Academic Programs Task Force.

Furthermore, we have conducted a major survey of alumni from 1997-2002. More than 750 graduates have returned their surveys, a very good response rate. Alumni holding onto their surveys should return them immediately.



Dean of Students
Robert Goldschmidt

The Honors Program in Flatbush: One of the most significant academic developments is the new Honors Program at the Flatbush campus, to begin Fall 2003 in four disciplines: biology, finance, psychology, and speech pathology. Students will have the opportunity to conduct research in their major, under the mentorship of faculty specialists. This program will give our students an extra competitive edge when they apply to prestigious graduate schools.

My Vision for the Future: Through its Flatbush Campus, Touro College has transformed the lives of thousands of families. As one who has nurtured and guided the Flatbush Campus from its inception with a charter class of 22 men and 10 women to the present with an enrollment of 1100 students, I have derived much *nachas* from the achievements of our graduates. Our beautiful campus on Avenue J is filled to capacity. We plan to lease additional campus space nearby to accommodate a growing enrollment.

My vision for the future projects a broadening of our programs by offering morning and mid-day courses to serve the educational needs of young women with young children.

Finally, I would like to see additional graduate programs in Flatbush, especially in business (an MBA) and the health sciences. We have significant roles to play in ensuring a bright future for the Torah Community of New York.

Rabbi Dr. Twerski Challenges "Future Leaders"

Continued from page 1

uproot the paganism of pursuit of pleasure and substitute it with the true rights of man. True liberty is only for those who observe Torah and a true pursuit of *Simcha Shel Mitzvah*, the true joy that comes from fulfilling the words of G-d. ...You have your work cut out for you in doing *Tikun Olam* as graduates of Touro. And if you carry these principles with you that you have been taught during these years, continue to build upon them with the spirit of Torah in whatever your endeavor, you will indeed be

able to achieve that *Tikun Olam*.

"Fear not the anxiety of the world because the source of strength that we have will carry us through the darkest of times to the brightness of the *Geula Shlema* - complete redemption, Amen."

Student speakers Aaron Twersky, Shira Federman, and Miriam Sussman Halberstam represented the class of 2002.

Aryeh Pollack received the Tribute to Heroism award for his selfless efforts with Hatzolah at the World Trade Center atrocity on 9/11.

FOR videotapes of Graduation 2002 and previous years, contact Alumni affairs at 212-463-0400, ext 785

Annual Career Day Set for March 20

Touro's annual Career Day is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, between 3-6 pm at the Lincoln Square Synagogue on Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan.

Steven Stricker, director of career services, encourages alumni seeking positions in accounting, finance, computer science, health care, and sales to attend.



TOURO COLLEGE
Office of Alumni Affairs
27-33 West 23rd Street
New York, NY 10010

Address Service Requested

BECOME AN ALUMNI MENTOR

Current students in Flatbush, Manhattan, and Queens, who are preparing for specific professions and careers, need you as mentors. If interested, contact the Counseling Center at (718) 252-7800, ext. 284 or the Alumni Office at (212) 463-0400, ext 785.

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